PUBLIC WORKS
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Public Works

(618) 654-6823 MAY 18, 2012

WATER TREATMENT PLANT STAFF

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- **Tony Hempen—Operator**
- **Gary Pugh—Operator**

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Supervisor WRF

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Water Treatment Plant

Highland has provided public water-supply services since 1926, when it acquired and upgraded rustic facilities begun in the 1890's when the Pet Milk Company built a dam and piped untreated water to their milk-condensing plant. A succession of improvements followed construction in 1926 of the filtration plant, and the treatment works was expanded and overhauled completely in 1993.

Currently the WTP is operated by a 4 man crew. Their daily duties involve the production and supply of drinking water to the cities of Highland, St. Jacob, Grantfork, and Pierron. The plant's operators produce an average of 1.2 million gallons of water per day. Looking forward, the plant is capable of producing up to 4.2 million gallons per day. Last year the water plant treated 446,325,000 gallons of water. The peak month was August with 45,450,000 gallons. The peak day was in July with 1,836,000 gallons. All of our water comes from Silver Lake which is 550 acres. At an average depth of 8 feet that would be 4400 acre feet of water or about 1,433,646,720 gallons of water

This year the Water Treatment Plant has plans to replace several items. First are the turbidity monitors. Turbidity is a measurement of the clarity of the water. This measurement is useful in tracking the performance of the filters and the clarifying process. The existing units are getting old and parts for repairs are no longer available. The turbidity monitors will be replaced with a current model requiring less maintenance.

The filter control valves actuators are also up for replacement. The existing actuators use air pressure to open and close which requires large air compressors. The plan is to change out the old ones with new electric actuators. The electric units only use power when they are opening or closing, so there should be some energy saving as well by replacing these actuators.